

## IT'S A GREAT FORCE

The Mystery of Electrical Energy Unveiled

### PROF. CARHART'S FIRST TALK

Giving a History of Electricity—Its Discovery and Utilization in the Arts, Mechanics and Sciences.

The second course in the series offered by the University Extension association was very auspiciously opened at the chapel hall of the West Michigan college last night. An intelligent and appreciative audience of over four hundred men and women listened to Professor Henry S. Carhart, head of the department of physical science in the university of Michigan and one of the soundest of electrical investigators. The professor spoke for two hours on the history of electrical discovery during the present century. His treatment of the subject was succinct, comprehensive and fascinating. He has popularized a most abstruse science so ably that his audience is infected with the speaker's enthusiasm and interest. Withal he approaches the subject as a scientist and scholar and there is no suspicion of superficiality or carelessness in his terse exposition of science.

#### History of Electricity.

The discoveries in electricity affecting the present time," said the professor, "reach back into the latter part of the last century, though the history of the really tangible electrical discoveries dates from Volta's invention of the voltaic cell in 1800. Thirty-three years before that time Sulzer had announced the discovery of a peculiar taste when two metals were placed together on the tongue and touched at their edges, and nineteen years later Galvani, an Italian, accidentally discovered that the muscles of a frog's leg contract when certain of the nerves and muscles are connected by a bi-metallic arc. This was really the discovery of the primary battery, and these were the first vague steps in experimental discovery.

Through the beneficent encouragement of the London Royal Institution, Sir Humphrey Davy, in 1801, produced the electric arc light. The speaker paid an eloquent tribute to helpful influence of such institutions, and spoke of the need of them in this country.

#### Added Unlimited Wealth.

Tyndall and many others, he said, have since added immeasurable wealth to the world through the discoveries made by Davy and Faraday. Oersted's discovery in 1820 that a compass needle is deflected by a neighboring current, is seemingly of little importance at first glance, but it showed in its author a wonderful insight into the laws of nature. The invention of the electro-magnet by Sturgeon in 1825 and Dr. Ohm's discovery, in 1827, that in a steady current the power is equal to half the current divided by the resistance, were both important discoveries. Sturgeon received a silver medal and thirty guineas in acknowledgment of a discovery that put millions into the pockets of Americans, the electro-magnet being the center organ in every conveyance of power.

#### Electric Lighting.

Professor Carhart spoke enthusiastically of the work done by Henry and Faraday, who, with the crudest apparatus made discoveries of inestimable value and which will benefit the world for all time. It is convenient and it is desirable, he said, to have modern and perfected apparatus in our work, but it is not necessary, and the schoolboy who has patience and love for science, together with a skillful hand and sound brain, can do wonderful things with very meagre apparatus. The discoveries of Henry and Faraday in the laws of induction and induced currents have been of untold value, as all appliances for transmitting speech, for electric illumination and power depend upon them. After 1831 the interest in electricity lapsed for some thirty-five years, and it was not until 1867 that Siemens, a German, and Wheatstone, an Englishman, discovered the self-exciting dynamo. In 1865 Pacinotti invented what is known as the Gramme ring, Gramme having reinvented it in 1870. By it steady currents are produced instead of fluctuating ones. From the Gramme ring and the drum armature came the series arc lamp and thence the rapid development in electric lighting.

#### Discovery and Invention.

The professor distinguished between the words discovery, invention and application. Electricity, he said, owes more to Davy and Faraday, who discovered, than it does to Morse and Edison, who invented and applied. The discoveries of Henry made it possible for Morse to invent the telegraph. He spoke of the profound influences in the ether about the wire which are invisible, but are more important than the flashes, arcs, magnets and wires which we do see. He said that the time would come when scientists would be able to transmit over two or three small wires at least a million volts from Niagara to Chicago as they now transmit a power of 30,000 volts over three small wires of a little over one hundred miles in length and reduce it to fifty volts at the terminus. In conclusion, he stated that in the five lectures to follow he should illustrate with apparatus and give a general view of the practical applications of electricity. The second lecture will be delivered on the evening of April 22, probably at the high school.

### NEW JERSEY FOREST FIRES.

Hundreds of Acres of Valuable Woodland in its Awful Track.

WATSON, N. J., April 8.—A forest fire broke out today near Cedar Brook and spread rapidly in all directions. Hundreds of acres of woodland were destroyed, and the houses of Andrew McKinley and James Howe were burned. Many dwellings and other buildings were saved only after great labor. The fire tonight is the severest near North Chesham, and endangers Pastor's hotel, the extensive Dunbar hennery and other valuable property. The loss thus far is estimated at \$50,000. The citizens are fighting the fire, and as rain began to fall tonight it is probable the flames will be checked.

#### Deed with Knife and Sheep Shears.

How SEASONS, Ark., April 8.—Ring Mayberry and George Simmons, two powerful men, quarreled on the streets of this city. Simmons was armed with a pair of sheep shears and his adver-

sary had a large knife. Both men repeatedly plunged the weapons into each other. Before the men could be separated, Mayberry was fatally wounded and Simmons received injuries which may result in death.

### HANGING OF A BRUTE.

He Outraged His Own Girl and Narrowly Escaped Lynching.

PRINCE BLUFF, Ark., April 8.—At an early hour this morning T. K. Frasier was legally hanged at Toronto, Cleveland county. Frasier's crime was outraging his 13-year-old stepdaughter in October last. He escaped from the officers at the time, but was shortly afterward captured at Little Rock. On being taken back to Cleveland county a mob assembled to lynch him, but such action was only averted by the extreme vigilance and courage of the officers. In fact the prisoner was shot at while in jail, but the injury proved to be a slight one. His case came up for trial at the February term of the Cleveland circuit court, and the defendant was promptly convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

### Killed by a Liquor Cure.

ROCKFORD, Ill., April 8.—The police have found no new clue as to the doctor from whom Charles Chiniquist, the tailor who died yesterday morning, obtained the medicine which he claimed to have taken to cure the liquor habit, and which killed him. They are of the opinion that he lied about it, and was given no medicine, but took poison with suicidal intent. But the facts hardly bear out their theory. As he was dying, Chiniquist told his daughter that he had been to a physician and got a prescription to cure him of drunkenness. He said it would either cure him or kill him. He refused to tell the name of the doctor who gave him the medicine, saying that if it cured him he would tell, and if it killed him the secret would go down to the grass with him.

### Passengers in a Wreck.

MOUNT VERNON, O., April 8.—One of the most serious wrecks that has occurred on the Cleveland, Akron & Columbus railroad for several years happened yesterday afternoon about twenty-three miles east of here, at a point called the Summit, a very steep grade. Freight train No. 24 going west was assisted by a pusher, and the flagman on the summit had orders to hold No. 3 express going east until No. 24 passed. This he failed to do, resulting in a collision in which about a dozen or more passengers were injured.

### Whisky To Be Cheaper.

PEORIA, Ill., April 8.—In view of the formation of a company of capitalists in this city and Chicago to build two large distilleries at this point, it was given out this morning that the trust is contemplating the cutting of the price of spirits here two cents per gallon to meet the proposed opposition. It is also reliably reported that President Greenup will recommend such a reduction, all of which means the cutting of the next dividend to one-half of 1 per cent quarterly.

### Four Bodies Recovered.

CINCINNATI, April 8.—Vic Earhart, a diver, was employed today by the Evening Post to explore the hull of the wrecked Golden Rule. He brought up two bodies, those of Deck Hand Madison and Second Mate Riley. Diver Schnell recovered two more bodies this afternoon. One was identified as Mat Holman and the other an unknown colored roustabout.

### Scholars Got Out Safely.

DES MOINES, April 8.—The Crocker school building caught fire this morning from an overturned tinner's stove. The teachers kept cool and marched all the children out safely, but the water supply was weak and the main portion of the building was destroyed. Loss, \$20,000.

### Perished in the Blizzard.

OMAHA, April 8.—Dispatches from points throughout the state indicate an alarming loss of cattle during the late storms. Between North Platte and the Wyoming line 1200 cattle lie drowned in the North Platte river. Several thousand calves perished in the blizzard.

### Assemblymen Arrested.

WAUPACA, Wis., April 8.—Assemblymen Alfred S. Lea, Sam Stout, Alfred Fall and David Holmes, all of this city, have been arrested upon indictments returned by the grand jury in the Mead murder case. Stout is charged with being a principal, and Lea, Fall and Holmes as accessories.

### Shot Himself and Two Others.

CANTON, Ohio, April 8.—John McCurdy this afternoon shot his wife and two daughters, then himself. All three are dying. McCurdy had accused his wife of intimacy with Waltengough.

### Alice Field Insane.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., April 8.—Alice Field, daughter of Cyrus W. Field, has been declared insane. She is fifty years old and is suffering from insane delusions.

### Death of Mrs. C. E. Hogadone.

Mrs. Myra Hogadone, wife of Charles E. Hogadone, died at 10:30 o'clock last night at her home, No. 270 South Jefferson street, aged 30. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Walker. Notice of funeral will be announced later.

### Arrest of a Thief.

John Krousema, wanted in Muskegon on a charge of grand larceny, was arrested in this city at No. 127 Monroe street by Detectives Smith, Jakeway and Galt last night. The authorities will come after him today.

### A Terrible Tipple.

The Mexican pulque is the worst drink on the face of the earth. It is the juice of a tree, and at first tastes like spruce beer, but after fermentation has ended and the alcoholic principle is fully developed in the liquid it is not only extremely intoxicating, but has a most abominable putrid smell, having imbibed the animal principles of the skin in which it is kept. It is impossible for an American to drink it without holding his nose, and after he has imbibed even a comparatively small quantity he will get dizzy and stay drunk longer than on any other drink ever manufactured.

## TRUE TO THE BLUE

Grand Army Veterans Meet Together in Illinois

### TO KEEP ALIVE THEIR DEEDS

They Gather at the State Encampment. Capt. Ed. Harlan Elected Department Commander.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 8.—Amid the blare of brass horns, the fluttering of banners and cheers about 1,000 veterans of the late war marched from the Leland hotel to the capitol building Thursday morning and opened the twenty-sixth annual encampment of the Illinois Grand Army of the Republic. There were 932 delegates present, according to the report of the committee on credentials, which number was largely augmented by arrivals during the day.

#### Claims Seniority.

One important question was before the convention. It is the dispute as to the seniority of organization between the departments of Illinois and Wisconsin, which was decided adversely to Illinois by the committee of the national convention, and a committee was appointed to look up the record and report on behalf of this department at the present encampment.

This report was presented Thursday by Col. Robert Mann Woods, of Joliet, chairman of the committee. After showing by the records that Illinois was organized as a department in April, 1866, and Wisconsin not until May of the same year, the committee presents a resolution calling for a committee of five to act with the department commander in presenting the case of this department to the national encampment. This resolution was adopted and the following men appointed on the committee: Ex-Gov. R. J. Oglesby, Maj. James A. Connolly, Springfield; Maj. Robert Mann Woods, Joliet; Col. Thomas J. Lawlor, Joliet, and Gen. H. H. Thomas, Chicago.

#### Report of Commander Clark.

The morning was devoted to reception of department officers. Commander Clark's report compliments the members of the order and expresses his thanks for the kindly cooperation he has met with in the work of his office. He reports 630 posts, with 32,984 members, as against 605 posts and 32,641 members last year; 2,107 have been suspended, 268 discharged, and 477 have died during the year. Indebtedness to the amount of \$993 outstanding from the last administration has been paid and a balance of \$1,063 is reported in the hands of the assistant adjutant general. He commends the purposes of the organizations of Sons and Daughters of Veterans and the Woman's Relief Corps. The memorial hall at Decatur is commended to the veterans as a work worthy of their support. The observance of memorial day and the visitation of schools by the comrades are commended.

The committee on soldiers' orphanage home recommends the appointment of a committee to urge upon the legislature to amend the law so that children may be retained in the state institution until they reach the age of 16 instead of 14, as is now the law. The report of the committee on the soldiers' home was complimentary to the management of that institution and recommends the appropriation by the legislature of a sum sufficient to add to the institution an assembly-room on the ground floor.

#### Arrival of Commander Palmer.

The event of the day was the arrival of the national commander, Col. John Palmer, who arrived on the St. Louis limited on the Chicago & Alton at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He was escorted to the hotel and given an enthusiastic reception, which he acknowledged in a brief speech. At the campfire at night the welcoming address was delivered by Gov. Fifer and the response by Horace S. Clark, department commander. National Commander John Palmer and others spoke.

#### Capt. Harlan Elected.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 8.—The grand army state encampment have elected Capt. Ed Harlan, of Marshall, department commander. His opponents were P. L. McKinnie, of Evanston, and J. A. D. Cadwallader, of Lincoln.

#### Resolutions.

A number of resolutions were adopted. They reaffirm faith in Comrade R. A. Alger and "point to his splendid record as a soldier, as a complete refutation of the slanders of his enemies," favor the appropriation by legislature of a sum sufficient to do away with the fee that is exacted from visitors to the Lincoln monument at Springfield; approve the establishment of a John A. Logan memorial hall at Athens, Tenn.; oppose the bill in congress to appropriate \$100,000 to assist in entertaining the delegates to the national encampment; favor the women's relief corps scheme to establish a home for disabled soldiers, their wives and widows; urge the passage of a law by the legislature, similar to the New York law, for the relief of destitute war veterans by counties, towns, etc.; commend the Sons of Veterans for abolishing shoulder-straps and high-sounding titles; heartily indorse the order deprecating the carrying of the rebel flag in processions participated in by grand army posts.

#### Woman's Relief Corps Meeting.

At the same time the Grand Army of the Republic encampment was convened the ninth annual convention of the Woman's Relief Corps was called to order by the department president, Mrs. Mary A. Bradley, of Decatur. Mrs. Bradley made a report showing that during the year there have been inspected 196 corps in the state by inspectors appointed by the president. Sixteen hundred persons have been assisted, including old soldiers, their families and members of the relief corps. The cash relief has amounted to \$3,774, and the estimated relief other than cash amounts to \$5,169. This was in the shape of clothes, provisions, etc. On January 1 there was \$2,000 in the relief fund.

#### Radio of the G. A. R.

The Ladies of the Grand Army of the

## REPUBLIC MET THURSDAY AND PERMANENTLY ORGANIZED THE DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS.

with Mrs. Philip Gunlock, of Chicago, president; Mrs. G. W. King, of Aurora, senior vice president; Mrs. Mary Polk, of LaGrange, junior vice president; Mrs. E. R. Winslow, of Chicago, treasurer; Mrs. Mary C. Wales, of Chicago, chaplain; Mrs. Arthur Quinlan, of Aurora, department counselor, and Mrs. Anna Stickler, of Aurora, chairman of the council. This organization differs from the relief corps in admitting only the mothers, sisters and daughters of veterans. Five circles were presented by eighty-eight delegates. Mrs. M. G. Cartledge, of Topeka, Kan., the national president, was the installing officer.

### Indiana Veterans Go Home.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., April 8.—Thursday was the last day of the Indiana state encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. At the business meeting, which was presided over by Department Commander I. N. Walker, it was voted to place the past post commanders on the roster. The following officers were elected: Ex-Congressman Joseph B. Cheadle, of Frankfort, department commander; Phil Dickinson, of Fort Wayne, senior vice commander; George Kock, of New Albany, junior vice commander; Dr. J. M. Jones, of Spencer, medical director; Rev. C. P. Riley, of Fairmont, chaplain. Mr. Riley is the minister who was expelled from the United Brethren church because he would not resign his membership in the grand army. He is now a Methodist.

Section 11 of the present civil-service law came in for considerable discussion and criticism. As the law now stands no person over 35 years of age is eligible for the civil-service examination necessary to obtain appointment in the railway mail service. This provision bars the ex-soldiers from this branch. Resolutions were adopted urging the president to recommend to congress that this be changed so as to render ex-soldiers eligible.

The Woman's Relief Corps elected officers as follows: State president, Mrs. Ida McBride, Elkhart; senior vice president, Ella D. Zimm, Indianapolis; junior vice president, Julia Kintz, Fort Wayne; treasurer, Mary Tuseley, Elkhart; chaplain, Dr. Elizabeth Miller, Muncie; secretary, Carrie E. Harper, Elkhart.

### Confederate Veterans Meet.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8.—New Orleans is crowded with gray hats. Between 14,000 and 15,000 confederate veterans have already arrived and special trains are arriving every hour bringing hundreds from all sections of the south. It is expected that by the time the United Confederate Veterans' association is called to order to-day for its annual session between 55,000 and 60,000 of the men who wore the gray will be in the city.

### Monstrous Apple.

North Carolina sends to the southern markets, especially those of South Carolina and Georgia, a magnificent red apple almost as large as a good sized cantaloupe. This apple is so large that, it is said, the greediest of small boys could scarce eat a whole one at one meal. It is grown in the mountainous regions of the old colony, where it requires little cultivation. Asheville used to be a famous place for these apples, but the influx of summer visitors has reduced the output. Before the war the backwoods farmers would drive in their queer old canvas covered wagons all the way down to Augusta, Ga., which was then the largest market north of Charleston, with great loads of the big, juicy apples.

These should have commanded a high price, but they were so plentiful in that section that they sold for five cents a quart. Still, as a quart measure would hold only one apple, the backwoodsmen made a good profit, for the fruit had cost them nothing save the labor of picking. —New York Evening Sun.

### Doctors But Not Reverend.

Dr. Samuel Eliot often appears in the newspapers with the prefix "Rev." before his other title. A recent mistake of that kind recalls a peculiar incident in which Dr. Eliot, Charles W., the president of Harvard university, was the central figure. It was at a meeting of Boston Methodist preachers, and President Eliot had finished the reading of an essay. The meeting was about to end when the chairman announced, "The exercises will close with the benediction by Dr. Eliot."

The assembled ministers arose, bowed their heads and waited, but no words of benediction were heard. Looking up they saw Dr. Eliot covered with confusion, speaking earnestly with the chairman. The cause of the delay was made clear when the presiding officer said, "Dr. Eliot informs me that he is not a clergyman and I will therefore ask Brother Trafton to pronounce the benediction." —Boston Journal.

### A Powerful Sewing Machine.

A sewing machine has been invented which stitches easily and rapidly through layers of leather five-eighths of an inch in thickness, this having been accomplished on a first exhibition trial. In a second trial stitches were made evenly and rapidly through a piece of birdseye maple three-eighths of an inch thick; and in a third test the still more remarkable feat was achieved, viz., that of sewing through a layer of brass one-eighth of an inch thick placed between two pieces of leather. —New York Sun.

### Bright Widow, Bright Daughter.

A rejuvenated widow in Onondaga county said to her daughter recently that when she, the daughter, arrived at her mother's age it would be time to think of marriage. "Yes," replied the girl, "marriage for the second time." Piqued by this reply, the good lady cut out her daughter in the good graces of her "steady company" and married him herself. To obtain revenge for this unmotherly trick, the daughter married her recreant lover's rich father. —Albany Express.

### Why He Coughed.

First Wakeful (in sleeping car).—What's that old rooster coughing so violently about? Second Wakeful.—He's sneaked a pillow down his windpipe, I presume. —Truth.

## NEWS OF THE INNS

A Popular Railroad Man is Here on Business

### HE CHAPERONED THE EDITORS

On Their Journey Over the Prairies to "Frisco"—Notes and Personal Gathered in the Lobbies.

W. B. Jerome, general passenger agent of the New York Central, with headquarters at Chicago, was a guest at the Morton yesterday. There is probably no more popular railroad or club man in this country than Mr. Jerome. He is known both in England and America as one of the most genial, affable and good-hearted of fellows, but is possessed withal of a saving modesty. He is a son of Leonard Jerome of New York City, and brother-in-law to Lord Randolph Churchill, his sister, Jennie Jerome, having married his lordship some years ago. Many of the foremost newspapermen of the country will long and affectionately remember Mr. Jerome, for he, more than any one else, made the transcontinental trip of the eastern delegates to the convention of the international league of press clubs the brilliant success it was. He gave his personal attention to the wants of the delegates throughout the trip, kept everyone good natured and prevented such diverse elements as Willie Wilde, Marshall Wilder, A. Frank Richardson, Mrs. Frank Leslie, Mrs. Parlow and Kate Field in so genial and amiable a mood that the entire trip of nearly 8,000 miles was without an unpleasant feature. Mr. Jerome's visit to Grand Rapids was of a business nature and was very brief. He was accompanied by C. A. Webber of Chicago, traveling passenger agent of the New York Central.

### H. Sanford of the Lansing, Saginaw & Northern was a guest of the Eagle yesterday.

George L. Erwin of the firm of Erwin, Fleming & Caw, proprietors of the Clay Avenue theater, Muskegon, was a guest of the Morton yesterday.

L. G. Mason, the Muskegon lumberman, registered at the Morton yesterday.

Wilber F. Hawhurst, a Detroit insurance man, is at the Morton.

S. Charles Despres of the hardware firm of Despres & Montague, Traverse City, is a guest at Sweet's Hotel.

### AN "ELEGANT" TRANSLATION.

A Divine's Peculiar Attempt to Improve the Scriptures.

The King James version of the Bible is a classic of classics, but there have not been wanting men who fancied that it needed retouching and refining. Dr. Harwood, an English divine of some two hundred years ago, went so far as to make a new and "elegant" translation, says the Youth's Companion. His purpose, as he modestly expressed it, was to "clothe the genuine ideas and doctrines of the apostles with that propriety and perspicuity in which they themselves, I apprehend, would have exhibited them, had they now lived and written in our language." Some of his attempts to avoid "the bald and barbarous language of the old vulgar version" are worth quoting as terrible examples of what elegant writing is not.

The plain-spoken warning to the Laodicean church is improved thus: "Since, therefore, you are now in a state of lukewarmness, a disagreeable medium between the two extremes, I will, in no long time, eject you from my heart with fastidious contempt."

The translator is especially happy in what may be called his personal eulogisms. Nicodemus is "this gentleman," one of the apostle's Athenian converts is "a lady of distinction," and the daughter of Herodias is "a young lady who danced with inimitable grace and elegance." The father of the prodigal is "a gentleman of splendid family," and St. Paul no longer leaves a "cloak" at Troas, but a "portmanteau," as was certainly more becoming to a dignified ecclesiastic.

On the Mount of Transfiguration St. Peter no longer says in vulgar, everyday language: "Lord, it is good for us to be here," but "Sir, what a delectable residence we might fix here."

The apostle's saying: "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed," becomes "We shall not all pay the common debt of nature, but we shall, by a soft transition, be changed from mortality to immortality."

The magnificent is thus rendered: "My soul with reverence adores my Creator, and all my faculties with transport join in celebrating the goodness of God, my Saviour, who hath in so signal a manner condescended to regard my poor and humble station. Transcendent goodness! Every future age will now conjoin in celebrating my happiness."

### A SEVERE CLIMATE.

Some of the Discomforts Attending Travel in Greenland.

Everyone knows that a winter in Greenland is a cold season; but it is "pretty late in the fall" all the year round in that part of the world. Here is a description of a September day taken from "The First Crossing of Greenland."

On the morning of September fourth the weather was glorious and the air still. There had been a light fall of snow in the night. The sun shone over the infinitely monotonous snow field, which, rising almost imperceptibly, stretched away and away in front of us like one huge white carpet, glittering with diamonds, soft and fine in texture as down, and laid in long, gentle undulations which the eye could scarcely follow.

But in the afternoon the aspect of our landscape changed entirely. A biting wind got up from the northwest which drove the snow before it in one overwhelming whirlwind. The sky then cleared completely and the weather grew colder.

The wind increased in strength; it was bitter cold toiling along against it, and we had to be careful not to get badly frozen.

First my nose hardened, but I discovered this in time to save it by rubbing it well with snow. I thought myself safe now, but then I felt a queer, chilly feeling under my chin, where I

forgot that my throat was quite warm and stiff. By more rubbing, and wrapping some mittens and other things around my neck, I put matters straight there.

But then came the worst attack of all, as the wind found its way in through my clothes in the region of my stomach, and gave rise to terrible pains. This was met by the use of a soft felt hat as a chest protector, and I was now armed at all points. My companions suffered as I did, and the bodily comforts of our tent were more welcome than usual that evening.

### PECULIAR STONES.

A Theory Respecting the "Schalenstein" of Switzerland.

In many parts of Switzerland smooth, flat stones, evidently hand-polished, are often picked up, says the St. Louis Republic. They are covered with lines, dots, circles and half circles, and are known to the Swissers as "schalensteine." The origin and use of these stones have long been a mooted point among the learned. Some have thought that they were charms, others that they were meant to commemorate the dead. The characters upon them have long since been declared to be undecipherable hieroglyphics, but it has been reserved for Herr Rodiger, of Bellach, to suggest a theory that comes anywhere near explaining their true origin and use. The schalensteine, he says, are topographical charts, as a comparison of them with any modern map of the district in which they may be found will show. The engraved dots correspond with existing towns and villages, the lines with the roads. Even the forks and the mountain passes are indicated with a precision that is truly surprising. Herr Rodiger has examined many of these stones from various parts of Switzerland, Italy and Austria, and is sure that they are rude outline maps of the country in which they are found. He has a large collection of them in his possession, which, taken collectively, form a most accurate map of Solothurn, the canton in which a majority of them were picked up. Another significant and curious fact concerning the schalensteine is that they are found most plentiful at intervals of about six miles, and usually at places where roads cross or fork.

### THROUGH THE MAILS.

Tropical Fish Have Been Safely Transported to England.

An interesting experiment has been made in connection with the transportation of tropical fish to this country, says the Birmingham (Eng.) Post. Acting upon instructions from Dr. Gunther, of the British museum, the eminent authority on fishes, the superintendent of the botanic gardens in the island of Trinidad some months ago dispatched to England a small glass vessel containing about a dozen specimens of a small fresh water fish, a native of the St. Anne's river in the island. The little brood arrived safely in London and was deposited in the hands of Dr. Gunther, who is delighted with the success attained, which only shows, he says, what might be done with due care in transporting tropical fish to England. It is probably the first time that West Indian fish have been transported alive to Europe. These are thriving and reproducing their kind very freely in the tanks at Kew, where Dr. Gunther lives, so that it is possible they may become naturalized. In connection with the propagation of these fish is the curious fact that when placed in company with the common goldfish the latter fail to increase in number through the voraciousness of the little tropical ones.

### AN EXAMPLE OF CONTENT.

An Artist Who Takes Pride in Nothing But His Work.

Perhaps the most conscientious workmanship in the world is still to be found in Japan, although the foreign demand for merely showy articles has proved somewhat corrupting, even to true artists. Yet, says the Youth's Companion, there are still men who are proud to spend infinite pains on a piece of work for which they will be, according to our ideas of good wages, inadequately paid.

The following instance is given of modest self-estimate, in the case of a man who is one of the most skillful and original artificers in the world, and whose works are everywhere admired.

This ivory carver sat in his little room, open to his little garden, chiseling upon a magnificent task from which was just emerging a very graceful female figure. The ivory he held between his knees, and the tools were spread out at his side.

"How long will this take you?" was asked.

"About four months," he replied.

"And what is the proportion between the value of the material and the value of the labor in such a work as this when completed?"

"I paid one hundred and forty dollars for this piece of ivory," said he, "and four months' work at fifty dollars a month is two hundred dollars."

And this man was estimating his work at less than forty American dollars a month! His was the true artist's temperament, for he was willing to accept only what would supply him with the necessities of life, depending for his actual reward on the joy of seeking to do a perfect work.